



Intelligence Information Cable

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SECRET

301723Z

DIST 30 OCTOBER 1969

COUNTRY: LIBYAN ARAB REPUBLIC/UNITED KINGDOM/ARAB STATES

SUBJECT: INTENTIONS AND ATTITUDES OF LIBYAN REVOLUTIONARY COMMAND
COUNCIL TOWARDS THE WEST, ARAB UNITY, AND THE GOVERNMENT
OF LIBYA

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SUMMARY:

THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMAND COUNCIL WILL ADHERE TO ITS TREATY OBLIGATIONS REGARDING WHEELUS AIR BASE, WILL CONTINUE TO OBTAIN MILITARY SUPPLIES, EQUIPMENT AND TRAINING FROM THE WEST; "WILL NOT TOUCH AMERICAN OIL COMPANIES," AND WILL COOPERATE POLITICALLY, ECONOMICALLY AND MILITARILY WITH THE ARAB STATES BUT WILL NOT INTEGRATE WITH THEM. THE RCC PLANS TO MAKE TRIPOLI THE CAPITAL OF LIBYA AND INTENDS TO CHANGE VIRTUALLY ALL THE INCUMBENTS OF TOP POSITIONS IN THE GOVERNMENT AND MOST OF LIBYAN AMBASSADORS AND THEIR STAFFS. THE RCC IS NOT AWARE OF ANY SERIOUS OPPOSITION IN LIBYA TO THE REGIME. END OF SUMMARY.

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2.

THE RCC IS PLANNING TO PLACE MILITARY FORCES AT WHEELUS AIR BASE AND TO OPERATE THE BASE AS A LIBYAN MILITARY FACILITY. THE RCC BELIEVES IT CAN STATION SOME FIVE OR SIX THOUSAND ARMY AND AIR FORCE TROOPS AT WHEELUS WHICH WILL BECOME THE CENTRAL LIBYAN MILITARY INSTALLATION. HOWEVER, THE COUNCIL REALIZES THAT THE OPERATION OF SUCH AN ESTABLISHMENT IS A COMPLEX TASK AND BELIEVES THAT CONVERSION OF THE BASE TO A LIBYAN ONE SHOULD RESULT FROM ORDERLY TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS FROM THE AMERICANS TO THE LIBYANS. THIS PROCESS, IRRESPECTIVE OF THE PUBLICITY, WILL TAKE TIME AND THE RCC STILL PLANS TO ADHERE TO ITS TREATY OBLIGATIONS WITH RESPECT TO THE TIMING OF THE WHEELUS PHASEOUT.

3.

THE VIEWS EXPRESSED BY RCC PRESIDENT COLONEL MU'AMMAR AL- Q A D H A F I IN HIS TRIPOLI SPEECH ON 16 OCTOBER 1969 REGARDING WHEELUS AIR BASE DO NOT REPRESENT THE VIEWS OF THE ENTIRE RCC, AND HIS SPEECH WAS NOT CLEARED IN ADVANCE

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BY THE COUNCIL. FURTHER, THE EDITORIAL IN THE 21 OCTOBER ISSUE OF THE LIBYAN GOVERNMENT-OWNED ARABIC DAILY "AL-THAWRA" WAS NOT APPROVED BY THE RCC BEFORE IT APPEARED. THIS EDITORIAL WAS PREPARED BY THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND WAS PUBLISHED ON HIS AUTHORITY. MANY MEMBERS OF THE RCC ARE STRONGLY OPPOSED TO THE KIND OF INVECTIVE AND DISTORTED REASONING CONTAINED IN THIS EDITORIAL AND ARE ASHAMED OF THE INSULT TO LIBYA'S WESTERN FRIENDS. THESE MEMBERS OF THE RCC PALN TO TAKE STEPS TO PREVENT FURTHER NEEDLESS INFLAMMATION OF LIBYA'S RELATIONS WITH THE WESTERN COUNTRIES.

4. [REDACTED] THE RCC HAS REJECTED ALL PROPOSALS THAT LIBYA STANDARDIZE ITS MILITARY SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT WITH THOSE OF THE UNITED ARAB REPUBLIC (UAR). THE RCC WILL CONTINUE TO SEEK EQUIPMENT, SUPPLIES AND TRAINING FROM PREVIOUS (I.E., WESTERN) SOURCES. SPECIFICALLY, THE LIBYAN ARMY WILL CONTINUE TO PURCHASE TANKS AND BASIC MILITARY EQUIPMENT FROM THE BRITISH. HOWEVER, SUCH ITEMS AS SOPHISTICATED MISSILE SYSTEMS, RADAR, AND OTHER "FRILLS" WILL NOT BE PURCHASED AND ALL CONTRACTS FOR THESE ITEMS WILL BE

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CANCELLED.

5. ON THE SUBJECT OF WESTERN OIL COMPANIES,

THE RCC "WILL NOT TOUCH THE AMERICAN OIL COMPANIES."

TRIPOLI RADIO BROADCAST ON 28 OCTOBER THAT THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS HAD ISSUED AN ORDER CANCELLING THE PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE LIBYAN PETROLEUM COMPANY (LIPETCO) AND THE CHAPPAQUA OIL COMPANY BECAUSE OF THE COMPANY'S "LACK OF PROPER QUALIFICATIONS" AND FOR OTHER REASONS.)

ARAB UNITY --

6. THE RCC'S INTENTIONS WITH RESPECT TO ARAB UNITY ARE LIMITED AND NARROW. DESPITE PUBLIC SLOGANS AND PROPAGANDA TO THE CONTRARY, THE RCC IS NOT THINKING IN TERMS OF ANY DEGREE IN INTEGRATION. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE RCC DOES WISH TO ENCOURAGE AND TO FACILITATE POLITICAL, MILITARY AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION. WHERE LIBYA HAS POTENTIAL INTERESTS AND OBLIGATIONS IN COMMON WITH OTHER ARAB STATES, THESE INTERESTS WILL BE PURSUED AND OBLIGATIONS WILL BE MET. WHEN LIBYA CAN PROFITABLY TRADE WITH OTHER ARAB STATES, PREFERENCE WILL BE GIVEN TO SUCH TRADE. WHEN LIBYA CAN CONTRIBUTE MILITARILY TO THE ARAB CAUSE, SHE WILL DO SO.

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7. THE RCC CONSIDERS UNION WITH THE UAR TOTALLY OUT OF THE QUESTION AND SUCH A MEASURE IS NOT EVEN BEING DISCUSSED BY THE RCC. LIBYAN GOVERNMENT --

C. [REDACTED] DRAFTING OF THE NEW CONSTITUTION FOR LIBYA IS COMPLETE EXCEPT FOR PROVISIONS DEALING WITH THE PRECISE MAKEUP OF THE NEW NATIONAL FLAG. IN THE NEW FLAG, THE COLOR BLACK WILL NOT APPEAR. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] THE CURRENT CONFLICT OVER THE FLAG RELATES TO WHETHER OR NOT IT SHOULD CONTAIN STARS. WHEN THIS ISSUE IS RESOLVED, THE NEW CONSTITUTION WILL BE ANNOUNCED. SOME PROVISIONS OF THE NEW CONSTITUTION ARE:

A. TRIPOLI WILL BE THE CAPITAL OF LIBYA AND THE SEAT OF GOVERNMENT;

B. ALL POLITICAL PARTIES WILL BE BANNED. THE CONSTITUTION WAS DRAFTED ENTIRELY BY THE RCC AND NO CIVILIANS HAVE BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH IT.

9. [REDACTED] THE RCC CONSIDERS ALL, OR VIRTUALLY ALL, OF THE CURRENT APPOINTMENTS TO TOP POSITIONS IN THE CIVILIAN GOVERNMENT, INCLUDING THE PREMIERSHIP, TO BE TEMPORARY. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] THE RCC IS PRESENTLY PREPARING A NEW SLATE OF APPOINTEES, WHICH WILL INCLUDE [REDACTED]

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THE NAMES OF MANY INFLUENTIAL LIBYANS WHO HAVE PREVIOUSLY REFUSED TO ACCEPT APPOINTMENTS BECAUSE OF THE EXTREMIST ATTITUDES OF LEADING MEMBERS OF THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT.

THE RCC WANTS TO WIDEN THE BASE OF THE CIVILIAN GOVERNMENT AND INCREASE ITS POPULARITY THROUGH A DRAMATIC CHANGE IN ITS COMPOSITION. HENCE, THE RCC IS PRESENTLY DISCUSSING THE NEW SLATE WITH INTENDED CANDIDATES IN HOPES THAT THESE WILL CHANGE THEIR MINDS AND JOIN THE NEW GOVERNMENT AFTER THEY LEARN WHO THE NEW TOP LEADERSHIP WILL BE.

10. THE RCC IS PRESENTLY PREPARING A SLATE OF NEW AMBASSADORIAL APPOINTMENTS WHICH WILL INVOLVE THE RECALL OF MOST OF THE AMBASSADORS APPOINTED BEFORE THE REVOLUTION. THE RCC ALSO PLANS TO REPLACE "MOST OF" THE PRESENT STAFFS OF ITS FOREIGN EMBASSIES.

11. FINALLY, THE RCC IS NOT AWARE OF ANY SERIOUS OPPOSITION ANYWHERE IN LIBYA. THERE HAS BEEN NO TROUBLE OF ANY SIGNIFICANCE IN CYRENAICA; IF ANYTHING, CYRENAICA IS MORE PEACEFUL AND NORMAL THAN TRIPOLITANIA.

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